

The official voice of the United Farmworkers

English

EL MALCRIADO



ON THE PICKET LINE

Vol. VI No. 9

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Donation 10¢



May 4, 1973

¡HUELGA!

¡HUELGA!

¡HUELGA!

WHY WE

- BECAUSE WE WANT OUR OWN UNION
- BECAUSE WE DO NOT WANT TO GO BACK TO THE MISERY OF THE PAST



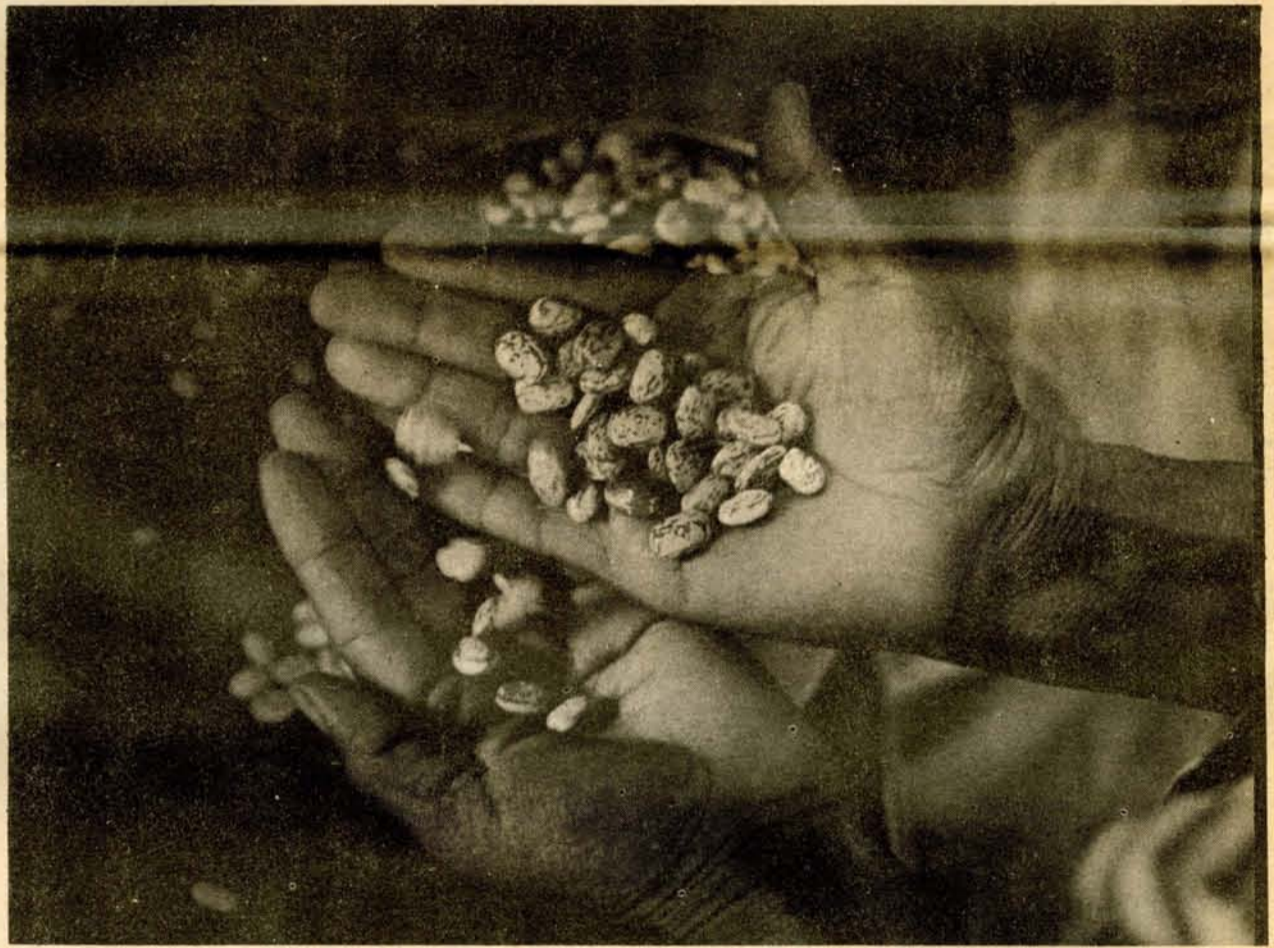
INHUMAN WORKING CONDITIONS

Before the Union, farm workers had no protections or benefits at all. The labor contractors and foremen fired workers whenever they felt like it. Sometimes they fired entire crews. Their friends or relatives were the ones that got the best jobs, while the rest of the people got what was left over.

Women and any worker over the age of 40 years were discriminated against in hiring. Workers were pushed to the limit to work harder and faster in order to squeeze as many profits as possible from them before they began to wear out physically. And then, they were fired.

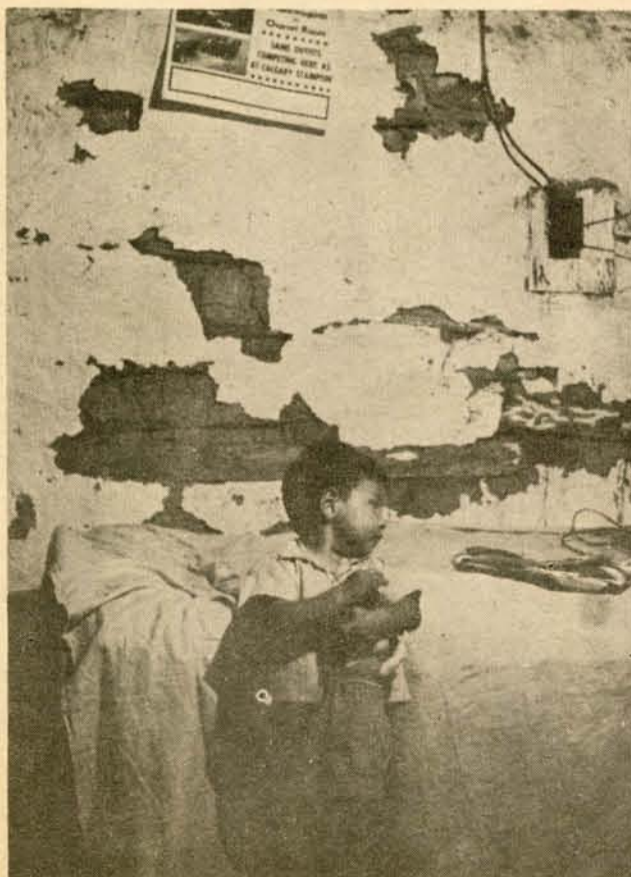
WAGES OF HUNGER

In 1965, wages in the table grape industry were a miserable \$1.00 an hour. If a farm worker was working for a labor contractor, the labor contractor paid him whatever he could get away with, sometimes as little as 85 cents an hour. Growers got richer and richer from the sweat and blood of the workers.



A FUTURE WITHOUT HOPE

There was no job security, people never knew when they would get fired. Our children were many times condemned to forget about going to school regularly. The miserable wages paid by the growers forced farm worker families to take their children to work in the fields.



FIGHT

BECAUSE WE WANT TO DEFEND OUR RIGHTS
AND ALL WE HAVE WON WITH
SO MUCH HARD WORK AND SACRIFICE



July 29, 1970: The largest table grape growers finally sign.

AFTER FIVE YEARS OF THE GRAPE STRIKE AND BOYCOTT
MOST OF THE TABLE GRAPE GROWERS SIGNED UNION CONTRACTS

In those contracts we won major wage increases and improvements in working conditions:

- Hiring halls to eliminate the labor contractor and his favorites.
- That no worker can be fired without just cause.
- Equal rights for women in hiring and in wages.

- A medical plan that pays many benefits, including maternity and doctor visits and medicine. The Union also began the construction of a clinic in Delano, the first of what the Union hopes will be a chain of clinics to serve farm workers everywhere.
- Prohibited growers from using those pesticides most dangerous to the health of farm workers and consumers.

Afterwards, the workers elected Ranch Committees to enforce the new Union contract so that they could control their own union and be better prepared to defend their rights. Grievance Committees were organized to protect workers from the injustices and abuses committed by growers and supervisors in the fields.

Because of all of this we said!

NO to the Grower- Teamster Conspiracy!



Father Juan Hurtado:

"Holy father, gracious father, who sent your son to liberate all oppressed peoples, here you find the farm workers of the Coachella Valley fighting for their liberation. Give us your guidance, that spirit of perseverance, that strength, that enthusiasm, especially to our leaders Cesar Chavez and his assistants, to our families, to the fathers and mothers and to the children...."

Farm workers held a mass rally April 12 in Coachella during which they repudiated the vicious moves by which the grape growers broke off the re-negotiations of the contracts and signed sweetheart agreements with the Teamsters.

Bill Kircher, National Director of Organization for the AFL-CIO, was at the meeting and promised the total support of the powerful 13-million members of the national labor federation.

When Union Director Cesar Chavez called for a strike vote, the people responded by rising to their feet voting unanimously with shouts of "Huelga." and "SI SE PUEDE." to fight for the right to have their own union and to strike if necessary.



"We are constantly with farm workers because we are one with them, and the Teamsters are constantly with the growers because they are one with the growers." --Cesar Chavez

So Monday We Hit The Picket Line

At 5:00 a.m. April 16 the strike began in the Coachella Valley. The strikers met in front of the Union office. From there they formed a large car caravan led by the "the Bus", carrying farm worker sisters and brothers who came from the Santa María, Salinas, San Joaquin and Napa Valleys to join in the struggle.

The strike swept the Coachella Valley and by 11:00 o'clock, almost 2,000 workers joined the strike. Left in the fields were the growers, their sweethearts the Teamsters, the supervisors and a few scabs.

Almost as soon as the strike started, Teamster goons began to do their dirty work. A young striker, Alicia Uribe, was hit in the eye by a sharp object held by someone passing by in a car driven by Al Droubie, who heads the Teamsters' union-busting effort in the Coachella Valley. Alicia almost lost her eye, but the attackers were not arrested.

By 10:00 in the morning, the growers were able to get their first unconstitutional court order against the strike at the Tudor Ranch.



At four in the morning: ready for the picket line.

We have been exploited for centuries.

Join us brothers, we are fighting for you.



Farm workers arrive from the North to join in the fight.

Karahadian workers: "NO CONTRACTS, NO WORK."

Freedman and K.K. Larson Sign

They had promised to sign the new Union contracts Sunday April 15, but did not do it waiting to see whether there would really be a strike.

The next morning, when they saw farm workers in action, they hurried up to sign.

Union Director
Cesar Chavez announces
the new contracts,
a new victory
in the struggle....



In the afternoon. Freedman and Larsen workers meet at the park in Coachella and vote to approve the new contracts.

THE NEW UNION CONTRACT (ONE-YEAR CONTRACT)

- * General labor wages: \$2.40 (Teamster Contract: \$2.30)
- * Tractor Drivers: \$2.75 (Teamster Contract: \$2.60)
- * Irrigators: \$2.75 (Teamster Contract: \$2.30)
- * 20% increase for most job classifications (Teamster Contract: 15%)
- * Unemployment insurance
- * Pension Plan
- * Hiring Hall
- * Immediate action on grievances
- * Prohibition of pesticides dangerous to farm workers or consumers

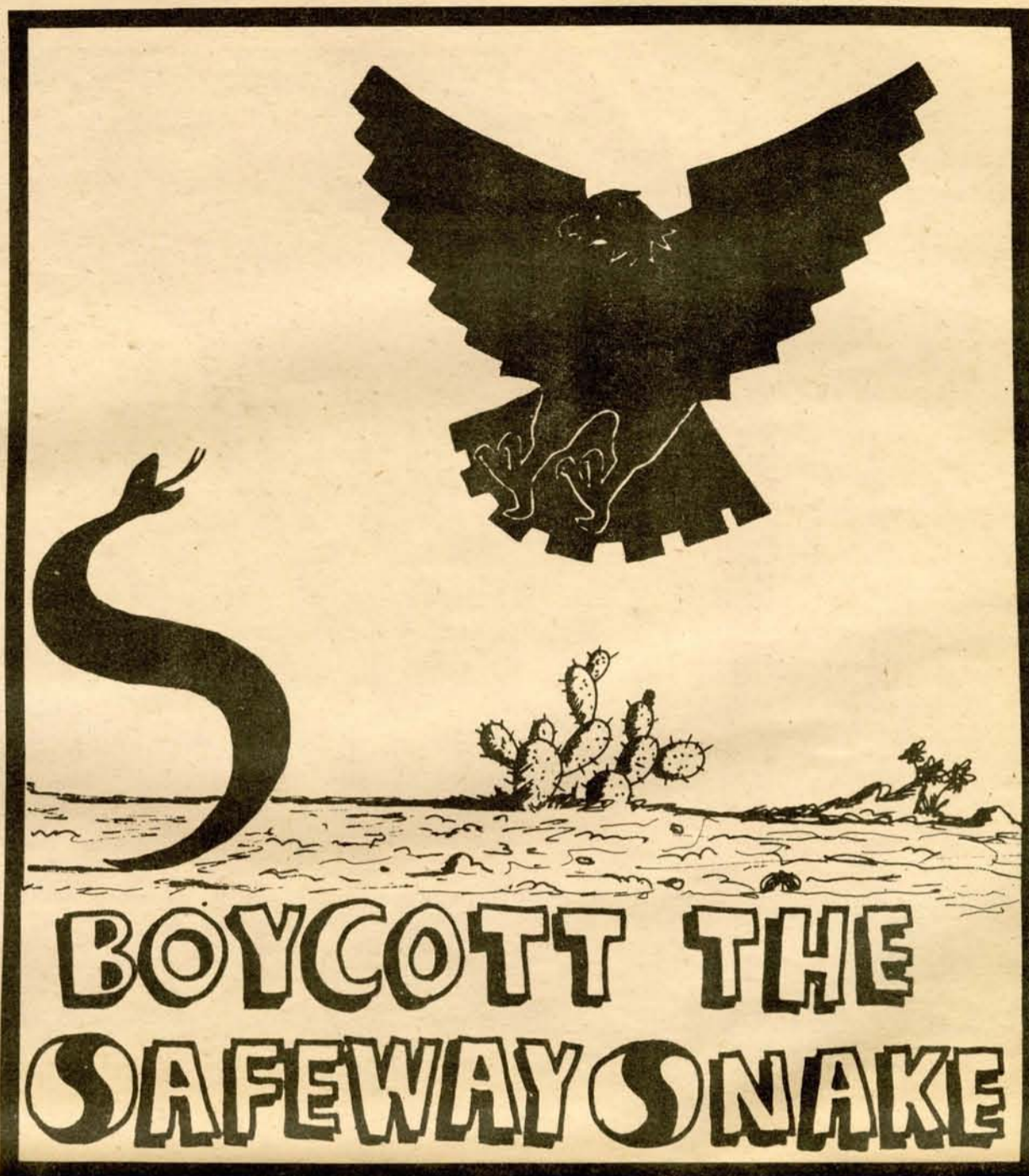
BOYCOTT NEWS

CALIFORNIA

EUREKA- Union support for the lettuce and Safeway boycotts is rising fast in Northern California. Union representatives of 40,000 wood workers in 6 western states have endorsed the boycotts, and picket lines have been staffed by members of the International Woodworkers, County Workers, and Stationary Engineers, marching alongside UFW picketers.

COLORADO

Statewide support of the farm workers' struggle has resulted in arrests and harassment. While the Colorado Farm Bureau was using the student center at Adams State College, 50 students protested because the center had been built with student, not state money. Seven of the fifty were served a week later with citations for the action, but charges against five were finally dropped, with two others placed on probation. Meanwhile in Monte Vista and Greeley, four other boycott supporters were cited, three for failure to leave a Safeway parking lot, one for breaking a parade permit. Trials are pending.



INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS-- John Birch Society and Young Americans for Freedom members are leading the fight against the lettuce boycott here in the capital of Indiana. While UFW supporters have picketed outside local A&P stores, YAF and Birch Society activists have staged right-wing counter picketing, and in several cases, have been invited inside the stores by A&P managers to lecture shoppers on the "evils" of the boycott and the farm workers. Despite such reactionary activity, the Catholic bishops of Indiana have announced their support of the boycott and have recognized the UFW as the "union that truly represents farm workers."

OHIO

TOLEDO-Members of MECHA at the University of Toledo, Catholic clergy from the Toledo Diocese, and concerned citizens have been picketing A&P stores in support of the lettuce boycott, Pedro Nieto, coordinator of the Toledo lettuce boycott, reports in late March that at least one of the areas 22 A&P stores would be picketed each Saturday as long as the giant food chain refused to carry Farm worker lettuce.

FLORIDA

AVON PARK- Two non-union members working under UFWU contract in the Coca-Cola Foods Division signed up this month, and paid back dues to July 1972. They came in the midst of state-wide attempts to force "right-to-work" laws on Florida workers, and have been hailed as 'symbolic victories' against grower and police intimidation, according to South Florida UFW organizers.

MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON- Angry fruit and vegetable vendors attacked a UFW picket, who had to be taken to Massachusetts General Hospital for treatment of head injuries. The picket, Daniel Santillar, was one of a group of boycotters in the Haymarket area of Boston picketing stalls that carried "Andy Boy" broccoli and "Greenhead" lettuce, both sold by D'Arrigo. About 15 men attacked the picket line, after kicking and insulting the pickets with racist abuse. The picketing was effective, despite the attacks: all but one vendor agreed not to carry D'Arrigo products until the strike is settled.

MICHIGAN

DETROIT-The National Federation of Priests' Councils and the special Collective Bargaining Convention of the United Auto Workers both endorsed the boycotts, calling on their members to support the farm workers struggle. In addition, over 100 boycotters turned out to picket an A&P barrio store on Detroit's southwest side, and two weeks later 50 supporters turned out in front of the store despite a blizzard with 40 mph winds that dumped 9 inches of snow on the city. Picketers reported turning away over 400 shoppers in one afternoon.

CANADA

Canadian National Farmers Union, which represents 100,000 farmers, have warned UFW that American lettuce growers may be 'dumping' iceberg lettuce on the Canadian market because of boycott pressures in the U.S. They asked for help in extending the lettuce boycott into Canada, and notified UFW that a boycott of Safeway in Canada had already begun, because of the chains high prices. They asked for support in their boycott of Kraft dairy products, because of the giant food processor's refusal to negotiate milk prices with the small farmer.



*... And here as in other places,
enslaved men and women, whose
consciousness has been asleep, are
waking up, looking around struggling
...
Emiliano Zapata*



...The hour has come for the liberation of farm workers. History is on our side. We must work hard to build a great movement. We shall overcome!

Cesar Chavez

FARM WORKER



FORUM

Boycott: a School

For me it has been a privilege that D'Arrigo refused to sign a new Union contract and I think the same goes for all of the boycotters.

By going on the boycott, we are in reality going to school, learning how to defend our rights and those of the scabs who don't know yet how to defend themselves.

I am confident that no matter how much of a scab a person may be, that person can be convinced to become a member of our precious and humble union.

Heriberto Perez
Boycotter and D'Arrigo Striker
Group Captain
Chicago, Illinois

Will Fight Growers

Dear sisters and brothers,
We have heard the news that the grape growers refused to sign a new contract with the Union.

We are ready to take these growers on who still can't seem to understand that our Union is the true farm workers' Union.
DOWN WITH D'ARRIGO.
BOYCOTT GRAPES
BOYCOTT LETTUCE
VIVA CESAR CHAVEZ

Gabino Hernandez, director of D' Arrigo strikers boycotting in Chicago Illinois.

Teamsters "Con-wise"

Estimado Editor:
...We cannot help but wonder what motivates Teamsters to seek farm workers' contracts and stand by the imperialistic Grower's association. How can a Chicano Teamster stand by and not make some kind of protest towards this indignity.... We can still remember the days when no Teamster member would cross a picket line for any reason. Teamsters in the past had never expressed desire to represent the farm worker, and in the past few years had engulfed cannery, fores-

try and other factions of labor. It has expanded so greatly that in the future they may even try to conquer the Culinary and any other faction that allows itself to be swallowed up by this giant octopus.

So con-wise and convincing are these union leaders (Teamsters) that they can manage their business from inside prison walls, obtaining furloughs whenever they want them, and immediate paroles through favors.

We praise and urge Cesar Chavez to continue with the struggle for decency and human dignity.
LUCHEN HASTA LA VICTORIA
SIEMPRE. VENCEREMOS

Adolfo Rudy Regalado, President
Andres Gonzales, Secretary
David Selvy, Group Co-sponsor
PINTOS DE AZTLAN
Susanville, California

Struggle In Florida

Dear Brothers and sisters:
Not too many days ago two non-Union men who have been working under a United Farm Workers' Union contract with the Coca-Cola Foods Division came into the Avon Park Field Office here to sign up as union members and pay back dues to July of 1972.

We here in Florida consider this a great victory as we struggle against the growers' attempts to destroy our union through "Right to Work" legislation. During the past months Florida farm workers have been writing and visiting their legislators in the hopes of showing them the necessity of a union for farmworkers. The courts, the police forces and the state legislatures have for too long been on the side of the growers.

They have used their powers for too many years to subjugate us and keep us disorganized. The fact that Brothers Charlie Coleman and Willie Lee Ludden have come in to sign up into the Union in the midst of such repressive legislation as HB 74 is truly a sign of hope and an inspiration to continue the struggle for justice in the fields. VIVA LA CAUSA. VIVA LA HUELGA.

Avon Park Field Office



Fox And The Grapes (Continued)

EL MALCRIADO

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AFL-CIO

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Strikers Ignore Court Orders

GROWERS, GOONS, COPS FRUSTRATED BY THE FIRM DETERMINATION OF THE STRIKERS

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, as the determination and the non-violent fighting spirit of the strikers increased, so did the repressive violence of the growers and their allies.

More than 30 police cars, three buses carrying 20 sheriff's deputies each, an airplane, 4 or 5 minibuses and 200 to 300 Teamster goons hired at \$67 dollars a day, were the forces amassed to enforce the unconstitutional temporary restraining orders issued by Judge Fred Metheny to stop the strike.

The strikers refused to attack their enemies physically, but at the same time ignored the court orders. The strike continued.



Teamster goons brought in from big city streets roam throughout the Coachella Valley threatening and even attacking farm workers struggling for their own union. These goons are reportedly getting \$67 a day to do a job on the Union.



Enemy of the People



Sisters and brothers, know his face well, don't forget it. It is he and other traitors like him who for money turn against their fellow workers by trying to destroy their union. He insults and annoys strikers on the picketline. He is a man of violence. His face shows clearly what is in his heart. HOW MUCH DID THE GROWERS PAY HIM TO SELL HIS SOUL LIKE THAT?

Massive Arrests; STRIKE CONTINUES



WITH EVERY ARREST THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF THE STRIKERS WERE VIOLATED

The violence against the strikers increased day by day. Tuesday 30 strikers were arrested at the Glass Ranch, Wednesday 74 were arrested at the fields of Mirage and Karahadian, Thursday 135 at H & M and Friday 69.

The Teamsters' hired goons and bikers, armed with baseball bats and chains, tried to provoke the strikers while law enforcement officials stood by watching. At the H & M ranch hired thugs "enforced" the Teamster contract by beating back workers who no longer wanted to scab and who tried to walk out of the fields to join the strike. The workers were forced to go back to work or face another beating.

But strikers picketed with even greater intensity

and workers imported by the growers to break the strike kept leaving the fields.

On the legal front, Union lawyers got strikers released faster than the judges and the police could jail them. Every night the strikers gathered in front of the county jail to hold solidarity rallies. Every striker who was released from jail received a hero's welcome.

On Tuesday April 17, Union Director Cesar Chavez held a press conference in Washington, D.C. calling for a federal investigation of the Teamster-grower conspiracy to destroy the Union and charged that some of the growers paid off Teamster officials during the Salinas Strike in 1970.



By the end of the week, 311 strikers had been arrested, including national AFL-CIO organizers José Lopez from New York, Paul Sanchez from New York and Del Adams from Texas, along with several ministers from different denominations.

THEY CAN JAIL A MAN, BUT NOT HIS SPIRIT

Our people responded valiantly to the outrages, the violence, the discrimination, and the mistreatments to which they were subjected. Among the many cases of true heroism we report those of the Perez family, Paulino Pacheco and our sister, Dolores Ochoa.



José Perez: "They didn't care that the children were small. The cops jailed them along with everyone else. We later had to send the children to stay with their relatives because they were so frightened. We will stay on the picket line."

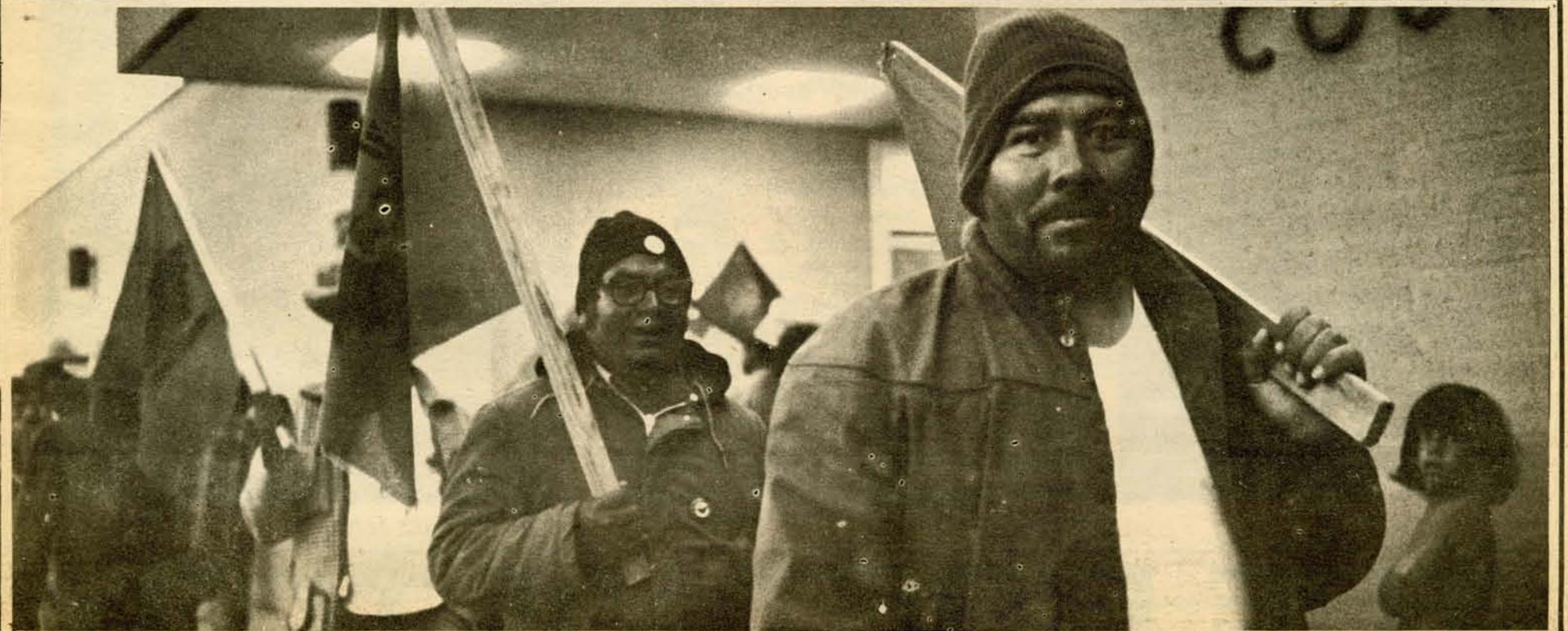


Dolores Ochoa: "...they gassed me in the cell, they tried to separate me from the others and they pushed me around. I started to feel bad and when I got out I fainted. My doctor didn't want to treat me because he sides with the growers. But now I am okay and feel like fighting more than ever."



Paulino Pacheco, director of the Union in the Santa Maria Valley, was jailed and falsely charged with "resisting arrest and carrying a gun." He was in jail for two days, but they had to let him go. The people were waiting for his release, along with that of Freddy Chavez, and chanted "We want Pacheco, we want Pacheco."

When they were finally released, Paulino expressed his gratitude: "They may be able to kill a person, but they cannot jail his spirit. His spirit flies free. This is a great demonstration of unity. They throw us in jail, but here we are... We are going to fight harder for the rights of all farm workers. The strength of the poor, like the waves of the ocean, will wash away all injustice."



GOOD FRIDAY:

Court Orders Reversed

It looked as if the arrests would continue. Across the valley it was obvious that the constitutional rights of farm workers were grossly violated. Tension mounted. Would the courts continue to serve the grower-Teamster conspiracy? National attention began to focus on what was happening here.

Suddenly the unconstitutional court orders were reversed and charges against those arrested were dropped.

THE FIRST VICTORY. It was a victory for

strikers and Union supporters, as well as for the Union attorneys who carried out a tremendous legal fight in the courtroom.

The people gathered in front of the jails to welcome those being released with shouts of "VIVA LA CAUSA", "SI SE PUEDE" and "NO CONTRACTS, NO WORK." A victory rally followed.

Afterwards, everyone returned to the park for a meal and new preparations for the picketing in the days ahead.

GROWERS AND GOONS WILL LOOSE

On this day too, Cesar sent a letter to the growers challenging them to hold fair, secret ballot elections. "You hold the key to ending the strife in this valley," he wrote, "for if you agree, the Teamsters must agree. The election must be held immediately before the boycott starts for we will never agree to an election after it starts. We

stand ready to meet with you immediately to establish procedures."

Do you think the growers and the Teamsters will permit elections? If they don't, it will prove they are trying to force farm workers into a union they don't want. If they do, they'll lose just the same. HUELGA SI, TEAMSTERS NO!



Pickets stop Al Droubie, head C.V. Teamster, who was jailed April 23 for hitting a Union member.

"You are more powerful than the ocean."

When workers are committed to defending themselves, they are like the ocean, stronger than an atomic bomb. Among us is a soul force, a spirit that generates a tremendous force, spreading everywhere.

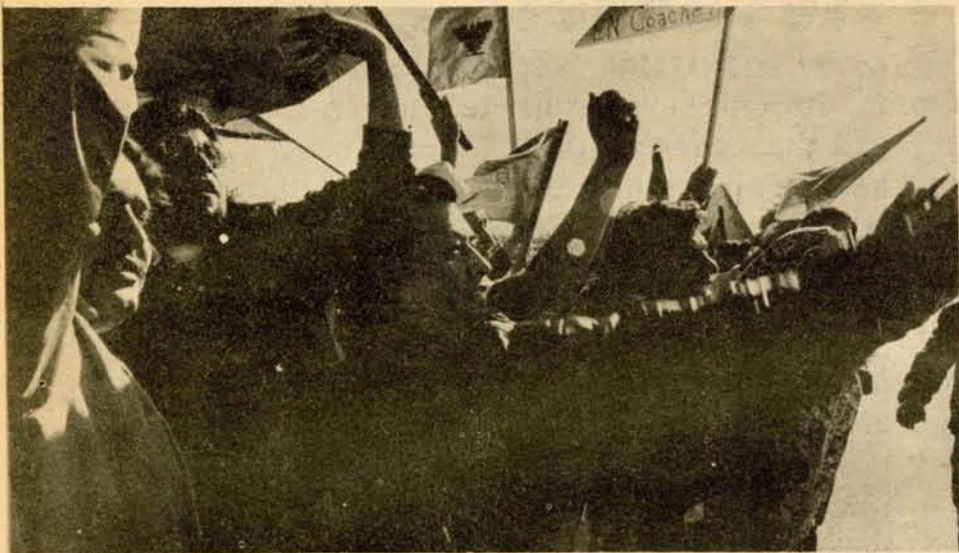
With the spirit you have to renew the movement, we cannot fail to attain a final and total victory. Never think for a moment that we may lose.

Sisters and brothers who came from the North, fellow strikes, we admire your conscience of action, the responsibility you show to your sisters and brothers. We admire your solidarity and we always feel proud of all of you who have come to sacrifice yourselves for others.

When the history of this strike is written, we will say that if the sisters and brothers from the North had not come to Coachella in 1973, our union would have been destroyed. As long as we are united there is nothing they can do to us. There is nothing stronger than people fighting for justice and freedom.



THE FIRST VICTORY



EL MALCRIADO is on the picket lines ready to bring you a graphic history of our Union's struggle against the grower-Teamster conspiracy.

For the striker, EL MALCRIADO will be an excellent record with which to show his or her children how to fight for their rights.

For the unionist who wants to be well-informed, EL MALCRIADO brings you a first hand account of what is happening.

If there is no Malcariado Committee in your community we urge you to order a bundle and help distribute EL MALCRIADO. If there is a Committee in your area give it your support.

HUELGA SI, TEAMSTERS NO

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BOYCOTT
Non-Union
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